

History of Hot Pots

HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

IN THE SWEAT OF THY FACE . . .

trade extended to a rather small area. They served regular meals and home-made ice cream and cake. When they needed music, it was furnished by a brass band led by Mr. Robert Krebs, who lived nearby."

Following Tom Monk's operation the resort was taken over by W. Ritter and Peter Kurellor, known as Dutch Pete, who ran it for three or four years before the Schneitter family took over again.

David N. Murdock owned a resort at the mouth of Pine Canyon about 1894 or '95, called "The Warm Lands." From his journal we read:

"At this resort there was a big plunge bath, a smaller private bath, and eight good dressing rooms, a large dance hall and eating places. Also living quarters, kitchen, dining room and bedrooms. All were built under one big roof. However, the dance hall had windows to keep the dancers cool and comfortable. An orchestra was kept there during the summer months. Dances were held each week and on holidays. The grounds were prepared for ball games, horse races, croquet and other games, with swings and other play places for the youngsters. A 'bus' ran from Provo for special celebrations. Perhaps the biggest crowd came out to see a big balloon ascend, held on the 4th of July."

The balloon was filled by spreading the silk over a fire in an effort to catch the smoke and gases. On the particular day this mention of the silk of the balloon caught fire and of course failed in its attempt to become airborne.

The journal continues: "The place had nice lawns and trees, but a big bowery was built to accommodate the crowds that came to picnic." There were more bath houses in the area, such as Fred Buhler's which was more centrally located and used by the townspeople as a place for baptisms. These baptisms were carried on for new members and also for those whose records were lost or destroyed. Sometimes this work was carried throughout the entire day. The water in this bath was very hot and was remembered by those using it for a long time. Fred Buhler, Jr., son of the original owner constructed the present bathhouse and built it further down the hill toward the road. The building that stands is larger and the water that feeds this pool had been cooled until now it is quite comfortable. The water was piped from the old bath-house down to the new.

Still standing is the old Joseph Galli home and one-half mile to the west the tiny bathhouse where Mr. Galli and his wife would teach children of the community to swim. The patient couple were responsible for instructing many Midway youngsters in the sport, and the warm waters of their spring-fed pool became a delightful playground for local boys and girls.

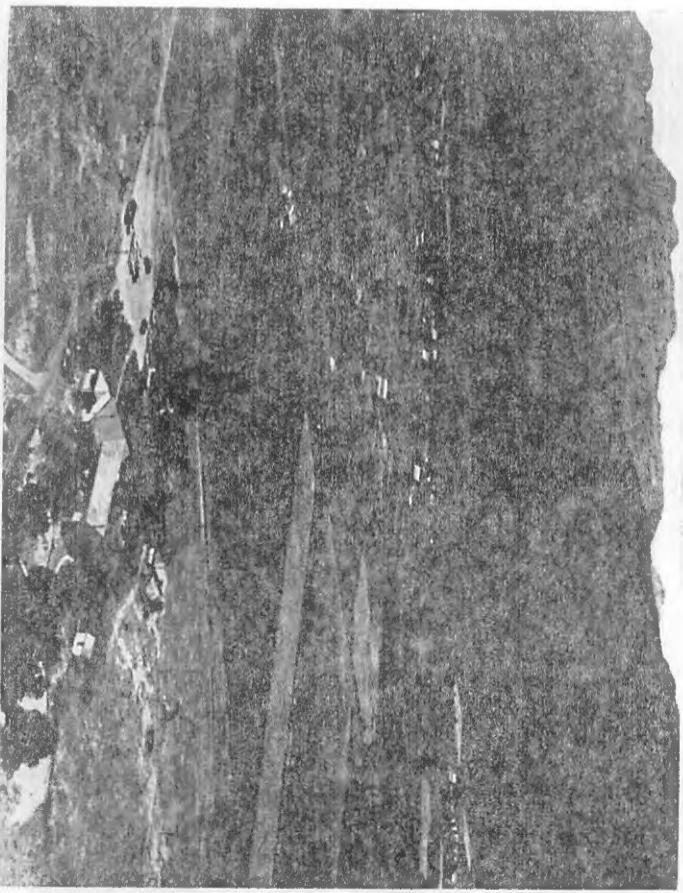
In 1947 Luke's Hot Pots was sold to Joe B. Erwin for \$100,000. Erwin was one of the first to envision Heber Valley as a national resort area, drawing thousands of visitors and greatly benefiting the economy of Wasatch County. He added a new outside swimming pool to the

resort, but eventually his far-sighted plans went awry and five years after he purchased it, Luke's Hot Pots were once again in the hands of John Luke.

In 1953 Luke deeded his resort to Jay, Clyde and Charles DeGraff who made some improvements on the property. Until 1955, when it was deeded back to Mr. Luke, the resort was known as the Diamond D. Also in 1955 Luke transferred the property to his wife Alada, who sold it the following year to Harold Calder and Clifford W. Stubbs. Late in 1956 Calder transferred his interest to Stubbs. A year later Mr. Stubbs sold the resort to Dr. Willard Draper and Eugene Payne who promptly christened it the Mountain Spa.

Under the ownership of Draper and Payne great changes were made. The entire main building was renovated, a brick facade added and the roof completely tiled. Landscaping of the property was begun in earnest, the dining room was remodeled and new equipment added. Roller-skating on the huge dance floor became a popular pastime. A small but picturesque hotel was opened and renovated. Horses were brought in to create added interest at the resort.

In spite of the untimely death of Dr. Draper in 1958 the Mountain Spa continued to gain interest. Still owned and operated by Payne,



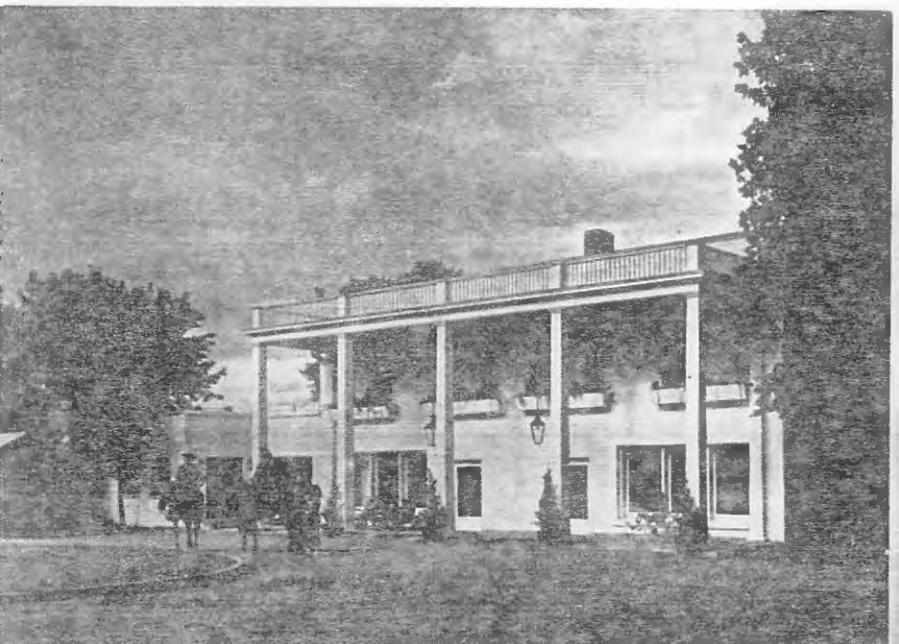
An aerial view of the Midway area with the Mt. Spa resort in the foreground. This is another of the county's popular resort spots.

it has become a popular spot for banquets, swimming and skating parties and future plans call for further expansion.

Schneitters Hot Pots became The Homestead early in 1952 when Ferrin W. Whitaker, his brothers Berlin and Scott and a son-in-law, Del Wallengren, moved to Midway from southern California to take ownership from the Schneitter family. A complete architectural face-lifting gave a new look to the main building. The east wall of the dining room was opened with windows looking out over the valley and kitchen facilities expanded when a new pantry was added. The lobby and fountain were redecorated and a wing furnished to house rest rooms and a check-in room for swimmers.

The old hotel was renovated as was a three-room milk house to the south, providing additional space for overnight guests. Since then the Ranch House and Farm House have been constructed bringing the total number of hotel rooms to 20.

Swimming, horseback riding, fishing in a stocked pond, shuffleboard and other lawn games were made available to visitors. Through continual enlarging, planting and landscaping, this new resort becomes a drawing card for the county. Chicken and steak dinners are still being served and the luster of this vacation spot remains undimmed through 80 years of resort business in Wasatch County. It is one of Utah's best resorts.



The nationally popular Homestead Resort at Midway

IRRIGATION

Management of irrigation water was an individual matter in the early days of Midway, but by 1887 the community had developed to the point that centralized control was necessary.

On May 4, 1887 the first organizational meeting of the Midway Irrigation Company was held with 74 persons present. Alvah J. Alexander was appointed chairman and Attewall Wootton, secretary of the meeting.

At this meeting a motion was carried that a committee of five be elected, who in connection with Attorney William Buys, would draft articles of incorporation, and by-laws to be presented at a meeting called by said committee. Committee members included S. H. Epperson, James B. Wilson, James B. Hamilton, C. I. Bronson and Attewall Wootton.

A second mass meeting was held May 16, 1887 to present the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws as prepared. A committee of five was elected to obtain stock subscriptions and select a time for election of officers. As the articles were read it became necessary to explain them in German to many of those attending, so it was determined to make a complete translation into the German language.

The first meeting of the corporation was held March 16, 1888, and S. H. Epperson was elected president. Directors elected included Mr. Epperson, William J. Andrews, John U. Buhler, Elijah Alder, Charles I. Bronson and B. Mark Smith. Treasurer was William Bonner.

On March 27, 1888 the articles of incorporation and by-laws were read in English and German and then unanimously adopted. Attewall Wootton was appointed secretary at a meeting on March 30, 1888, to serve for a salary of \$100 per year.

While Wilford Van Wagoner was president of the Midway Irrigation Company a law-suit was carried on between the adjacent mining companies and the irrigation company. The case involved the rights of ownership to water originating in mining territory. The suit was finally carried to the Supreme Court of the United States. The Irrigation Company won the suit. A decision was handed down that mining companies could not go into irrigation watersheds and claim the water. They could divert but not develop water. The decision protected agricultural water rights.

Salt Lake City and other government units supported the Irrigation Company in the suit with moral and financial help.

The case attracted national attention. The verdict was hailed as a vital water policy. Mr. Van Wagoner deserves much credit for his valiant, intelligent conduct during the case. The litigation lasted from 1914 when the first complaint was filed until 1925 when it was finally settled.

The annual meetings of the corporation have been held since that time in January. Officers are elected and the annual report is read at this time.